

Bermuda Signs Tax Information Agreement with Aruba

HAMILTON, Bermuda - Bermuda's Minister of Finance the Hon. Paula A. Cox announced that Bermuda (on Tuesday) concluded a bilateral agreement with Aruba that provides for a full exchange of information on criminal and civil tax matters between Bermuda and Aruba. The tax information exchange agreement (TIEA) marks Bermuda's eighteenth signed TIEA and further demonstrates Bermuda's commitment to substantially implement the internationally agreed tax standard. Commenting on the Agreement, Minister Cox said, "It is a particular pleasure for me to sign this document with Aruba, an overseas territory of the Kingdom of Netherlands, following our signing with the Netherlands on June 8th, which itself marked our 12th signed TIEA.

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At the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa

Breast Cancer Seminar held in the Grand Caribbean Ballroom



PALM BEACH - A Cancer Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment seminar was held at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa as part of the October activities of Koningin Wilhelmina Fonds, the cancer foundation of Aruba.

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At The Westin Resort, Aruba

The next generation of hospitality professionals



PALM BEACH - Recently, it was "Bring your Kids to Work Day" at The Westin Resort, Aruba. Associates were encouraged to bring their children to work so that they can have a better understanding of what mom and dad do all day, as well as experience what it is like to work in different departments within the resort.

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At The Westin Resort, Aruba

Associates graduate from English & Spanish Courses



PALM BEACH – Professional growth and opportunity are mainstay initiatives implemented by the management of The Westin Resort, Aruba.

Under the direction of the Human Resources department, a variety of personal and professional growth courses are offered. Last week, a group of employees received their diplomas from either English or Spanish class focusing on conversation

and social politeness. The classes were offered in conjunction with Gotty's Language Institute. An official graduation ceremony was held where graduates received their diplomas, followed by snacks.

Congratulations to the following associates: for Spanish: Mauvalyn Hutchinson, Gloria Tobias, Albert Arce, Patrick Leppers, Bas Olde Riekerink, Brenda

Brown, Maria Garcia, Shirley Morris, and Marguerita Oemar; and for English: Amparo Alvarado, Milly Sanchez, Margarita Clase Soto, Diana Monzon, Erico Petro, Adriana Koolman, Zonia de Jong, Himilce Gonzales, Consuelo Suarez, Flavia Moreno, and Julio Restrepo. Two students—Bas Olde Riekerink and Zonia de Jong—were acknowledged as top of their classes. □



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Indian residents buy wheelchair for PASCUALITA



ORANJESTAD - Neeta & Bharti Daryanani, Chairpersons of the Service Group of the Satya Sai Baba Center have come to know and love Mrs. Pascualita Farro during our monthly Service Visits to the Elderly Home, St. Michael's Paviljoen.

Pascualita is usually a very happy lady, full of joy & laughter and a kind word and God Bless for one and all! But lately we had noticed that she had lost her zest for life

and had become miserable and depressed! Upon enquiry we found out that, due to the severe pain in her knees, she was unable to move around the way she used to! The Doctor suggested a wheelchair for her. But, there is a long waiting list for wheelchairs at the Paviljoen and Pascualita would have to wait quite a few months for her turn!

To see her like this made us very sad! So, to bring back the happiness into her life, Neeta

Daryanani decided to approach some of the Indian Businesses in Aruba for assistance to buy a Wheelchair for Pascualita. Happily, help was readily forthcoming from every Indian Family that Neeta approached and very soon a Wheelchair for Pascualita became a reality! Fortunately Labco N.V. had the required size in stock! Today is Diwali, the Indian Festival of Lights, thus what better day could there be to present this brand new Wheelchair to



Pascualita and bring back the Light into her life! God Bless her!

On behalf of the Satya Sai Baba Service Wing, we acknowledge the donations and sincerely thank the following persons:

Kusum & Gopal Sawilani, Kanchan & Naresh Kanal, Roshni & Raja Gianchandani, Dinisha & Nash Melwani, Anita & Anil Nathani & Family, Kavita & Gordhan Kimatrai

Daryanani,

Sonia & Kishan Bhatia & Family, Neelam & Ashwin Chugani, Diya & Rabindra Harchandrai, Mrs. Savitri, Reyana & Kamlesh Alwani, Varsha & Dinesh Mahtani, Niti & Prakash Gupta, Mrs. Bharti P. Daryanani, Neeta & Harish Daryanani.

It is thanks to the generosity of these persons that today we can give Pascualita Farro her mobility, and bring back her enchanting smile! □



Appetizer

- Fish Soup
- Onion Soup
- Conch Fritters
- Escargot
- Salad

Entrée

- Fresh Catch of the Day prepared by our local chef just the way you like it.
- Jumbo Shrimp from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine.
- Filet Mignon 8 oz. US Tenderloin
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Dessert

- Chocolate or Banana Cake
- Ice Cream
- Coffee / Tea

3-course dinner
\$24 per person

* This special cannot be used with any other promotions, vouchers or certificates.



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Radisson
ARUBA
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The next generation of hospitality professionals



Continued from Front Page

The island's next generation of hospitality executives started the morning with a

healthy breakfast, followed by a tour of the resort with fun activities mixed in. Lunch in the associates' cafeteria,

Cushin di Maria, was enjoyed by the group of 45 children, then an afternoon of hands-on involvement in various resort



departments, including food and beverage, housekeeping, the front office, human resources, and guest activities among others.

The day was a big success, leaving the kids with a better appreciation for their parents' responsibilities at work and also feeling like a part of The Westin Aruba family. □



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Nicole and FELA! arrive on Broadway for preview shows



PHILIPSBURG/NEW YORK--St. Maarten dancer Nicole de Weever took on New York on Monday evening when the FELA! production arrived on Broadway for opening preview performances at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre (230 West 49th Street).

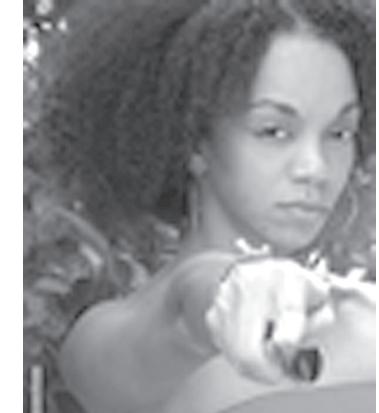
The new musical based on the life and music of groundbreaking African composer, performer and activist Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, has an official opening set for Monday, November 23.

Nicole is no stranger to large productions on international stages, but she has said to be in this particular Broadway production "makes me feel full inside as a dancer and artist." This will be the first ever original Broadway production that she will be part of that's on Broadway itself. There have been some prestigious off-Broadway shows on her resume, none of this calibre, however.



There will be a number of St. Maarteners present when the musical officially opens in November. A local group in New York has been helping to organise package deals for anyone from the island who wishes to be in New York for Nicole's opening performance. Government officials, most prominently Commissioner Frans Richardson, said he hopes to be in the crowd as well. If not for opening night, sometime during the production's run on Broadway. Winner of this year's Lucille Lortel Award for Best Musical, FELA! was conceived by Bill T. Jones, Jim Lewis and Stephen Hendel.

FELA! had its world premiere at off-Broadway's 37 Arts in September 2008, where it enjoyed a sold-out limited run. In this revolutionary new musical, directed and choreographed by Tony Award winner Bill T. Jones with a book by Jim Lewis, audiences are welcomed into the extravagant, decadent and rebellious world of Afrobeat legend Fela Anikulapo-Kuti. Using his pioneering music (a blend of jazz, funk and African rhythm and harmonies), FELA! explores Kuti's controversial life as artist, political activist and



revolutionary musician. Featuring many of Fela Kuti's most captivating songs and Bill T. Jones's imaginative staging, FELA! is a provocative hybrid of concert, dance and musical theatre. □

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*** Human Hints Daily ***

Resisting the Transformation

One of the main reasons we have stress in our lives, is that we resist change. The three dimensional hologram is dynamic, and in a state of constant flux. Without change, there would be no life cycle, and the three dimensional Universe would not exist.

Yet our natural tendency is to resist change, and we often direct all of our considerable life force at keeping things the way they are, just because we're used to it.

We're comfortable when there are no surprises or unknowns in our lives. It can be scary to let go and step blindly into

the unknown. This is when we must rely on our belief in our own ability to create what we ask for, and to receive abundance from the Universe.

In three dimensions, change is necessary for growth. As we grow, our hologram must transform into a reflection of ourselves.

To resist change is to resist our own growth. When we resist change, we alter our destiny and seal our own Fate. We stop the natural flow of life and prevent further expansion into the unknown. We're afraid of graduating into real life, because we're so comfortable

in high school.

Static, unchanging conditions create stagnation, rot and decay.

Death takes over when we don't change because the decay will serve as food for life. To resist change is to resist growth.

When we don't grow, we lose our joy for life and our ability to help others.

This is not to say that it is alright to shun responsibility in the name of growth.

These characteristics help define your energy, and they are an integral part of your

personal power. There is a fine line and a life changing difference between letting go in the name of growth and escaping your commitments.

One is a courageous leap of faith into the unknown, the other diminishes your power. Escaping your commitments tells the Universe that you can't handle what you have, so it won't give you any more.

The three dimensional hologram is an ever-changing, dynamic environment. When we resist change, we deny our spirit's power.

We show the Universe that we don't have faith in ourselves, or in it, and the Universe reflects uncertainty in our lives.

When our lives stray too far from our purpose, Spirit will get us back on track by forcing us into the unknown. When the structure disappears from your life, the least painful course of action is to go with it. Don't resist change just for the sake of maintaining your relative comfort.

Nothing can stay the same in this dynamic environment held together by constant transformation.

The more we understand that all things in the hologram follow the cycle of life and death, the more we can accept change when it comes, and the easier it will be to relinquish the illusion of control over your life.

Until Tomorrow...

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought.

HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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Join the Aloha Bridge Club today to play

ORANJESTAD - The second beginners bridge course organized by the Aloha Bridge Club Aruba kicked off last Wednesday, 14 October in Casa del Mar led by Fred van der Leest. The following people have already registered for today's event: Machteld Beeker, Darlene van der Biezen, Yvonne Bok, Clyde Croes, Patricia Every, Gerda Faber, Dick Faber, Gerda Geerman, Carmen Kruythoff, Silva de Lange, Marion Pijper, Robert Veldhuizen. This ten week bridge course is a unique opportunity to become familiar with the fascinating world of bridge or to refresh one's knowledge. There are still some places left. Please call Addy Eilers before Wednesday @ 12 noon on tel. 582-4953. □

**The Dutch Pancake House
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Brooke and Michael celebrate at Aqua Grill



Brooke and Michael

PALM BEACH -Last Thursday evening, love birds Brooke Simpson and Michael Beck chose Aqua Grill as the location for their wedding

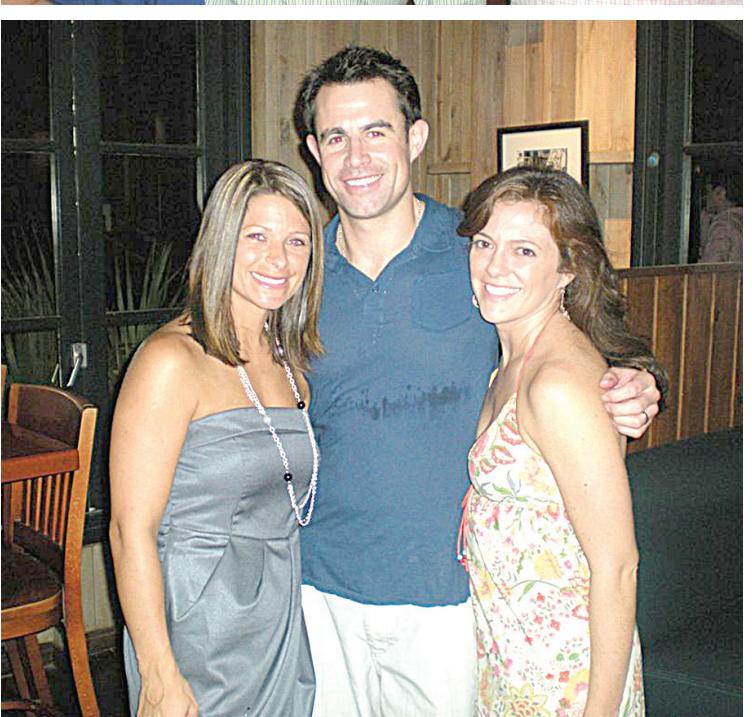
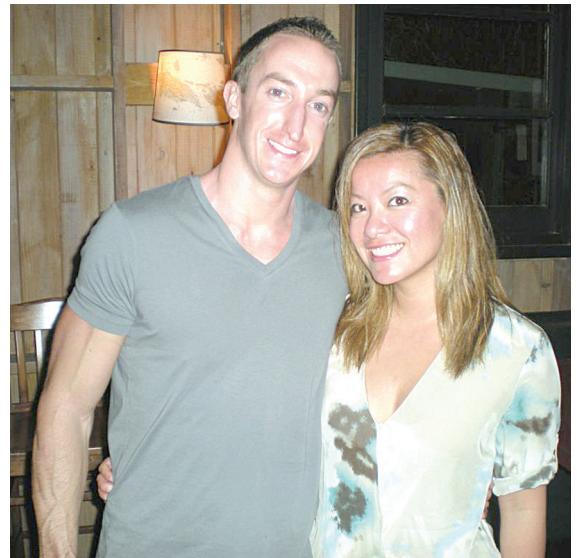
rehearsal dinner.

The couple is here with a group of some 50 family and friends that traveled to the island to enjoy several days of

wedding festivities and some fun in the sun.

Aqua Grill was more than happy to host this event, and the special event team has been working with the couple long-distance since February planning the dinner.

The group enjoyed a private cocktail reception in Aqua Grill's chic lounge, followed by dinner with choices like live Maine lobster and the freshest catches on the island. The couple was married on Saturday on the pristine shores of Eagle Beach, followed by a reception at the Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort on Palm Beach. The couple will also be spending their honeymoon at the Hyatt as well. Aqua Grill is a favorite choice for group celebrations and special occasions, with a staff to attend to all the details and even create special menus for your party..□



Aruba's competitive position has improved

Summary of the Monthly Bulletin for August 2009



ORANJESTAD - In the last 12 months, prices in Aruba have decreased with 0.4 percentage points in relation to the United States, Aruba's main trading partner. This is positive for the competitive position of Aruba.

It is the first time since November 2005 that a negative price differential is observed. Responsible for this development are the declining prices in Aruba. August 2009 showed an end of period deflation of 4.7 percent, a development occurring since December 2008. Similarly, for the month of September, an end of period deflation of 3.7 percent was observed. The decline in prices in August and September 2009 was mostly due to lower water and

electricity tariffs, as well as decreased gasoline prices. Tourism visitor statistics are not yet available for the month of August.

Available July figures show that the number of stay over visitors went up by 6.4 percent. In addition, the number of nights visitors spent on the island also increased, albeit at a slower pace (+5.6 percent). In August 2009, real tourism receipts went up for the third consecutive month, this time by 1.8 percent.

The number of cruise passengers in August 2009 grew by 36.4 percent, as the number of ship calls increased from 3 to 8.

Total government revenue in August 2009 decreased by Afl. 6.2 million to Afl. 84.2

million compared to August 2008. This was the result of lower tax revenues (especially succession tax), offset partially by higher nontax revenues. On a cumulative basis, total tax revenue of the government in 2009 decreased by Afl. 57.5 million or 8.7 percent. The real turnover tax revenue (BBO), an indicator of production on the island, grew by 9.8 percent compared to August 2008. The figures used here are based on BBO

collected in September, which is indicative of turnover mostly generated in August.

The money supply in August 2009 rose by Afl. 7.2 million to Afl. 3,091.5 million. This was the result of an Afl. 12.9 million increase in net inflow of funds from abroad, which was slightly offset by an Afl. 5.8 million decline in net domestic assets. Consequently, net foreign assets increased to Afl. 1,432.5 million at the end of August 2009. The decline

in net domestic assets was caused largely by an Afl. 5.3 million decrease in non credit related balance sheet items. In addition, claims of the banking sector on the private sector fell by Afl. 4.7 million as a result of a decline in claims on enterprises. On the other hand, net liabilities of the banking sector to the government fell by Afl. 4.2 million, stemming from contractions in both development funds and government's deposits. □

Bermuda Signs Tax Information Agreement with Aruba

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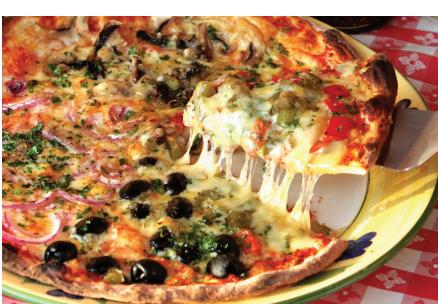
Our TIEA with the Netherlands satisfied the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) standard and resulted in Bermuda being the first country to ascend to the white list from the grey list. Bermuda now having concluded a TIEA with Aruba today, and with Netherlands Antilles on September 28th, draws Bermuda that much closer to the Netherlands and its overseas territories." Bermuda presently has agreements with the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, the Nordic Group (including Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden and their associated territories the Faroe Islands and Greenland), Germany, The Kingdom of the Netherlands, Ireland, Netherlands Antilles, and Mexico. These Agreements are available for review on the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development website at www.oecd.org.

Bermuda's TIEA with Aruba includes all standard means to ensure due process is followed in tax information requests to Bermuda, including, but not limited to, the following provisions: the request must not pertain to information in the possession or control of a person other than the taxpayer that does not relate specifically to the tax affairs of the taxpayer; the information is protected from disclosure under the laws of Bermuda on the grounds of legal professional privilege; the requesting party's request for information must be obtainable under its own laws for the purposes of the administration or enforcement of its tax laws or in response to a valid request from the Minister under the agreement; the disclosure of the information must not be contrary to public policy; the requesting party must keep the information confidential and may not disclose it to any unauthorized person. □

CasaTua Barcelona Downtown & Pizzeria Palm Beach

The Casa Tua Barcelona downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating while the Pizzeria Palm Beach location serves their guests on a cozy outside terrace.

Both restaurants serve the same brick-oven thin crusted pizzas and both poor the same homemade Sangria. Where the restaurants differ from each other is certain menu items and the opening hours. Casa Tua Barcelona downtown is open for lunch with delicious lunch specials from Monday till Friday. One lunch special is a \$ 9.95 Beef Tenderloin with red wine sauce. All nights of the week Casa Tua Barcelona serves Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you should choose the



fabulous Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by the chef!

The staff at both popular eateries have set the standard on the island for the term "great service" not only with your dinning pleasure, but recognized as 'the' professionals in assisting guests with the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages.

Casa Tua Barcelona offers a live flamenco show on Fridays while you can enjoy daily live music at Pizzeria Arawak. Wherever you decide to go, you won't be disappointed.



At Arawak Gardens enjoy the EarlyBird Special:
From 5.30 – 7.00 for \$ 19.95

Choice: Soup or Salad as appetizer, Chicken Breast Francesa or Linguini Pomodoro or Penne Pesto or Pasta Carbonara as main course and a choice of Flan a l'orange or chocolate mousse as dessert.

Casa Tua Barcelona Downtown
open from 11.30am – 10.30pm,
Sundays from 5pm – 10.30pm Tel.
588 5695

Casa Tua Pizzeria Palm Beach
open from 5pm to 11pm 7 days a week tel 586 8470



Breast Cancer Seminar held in the Grand Caribbean Ballroom

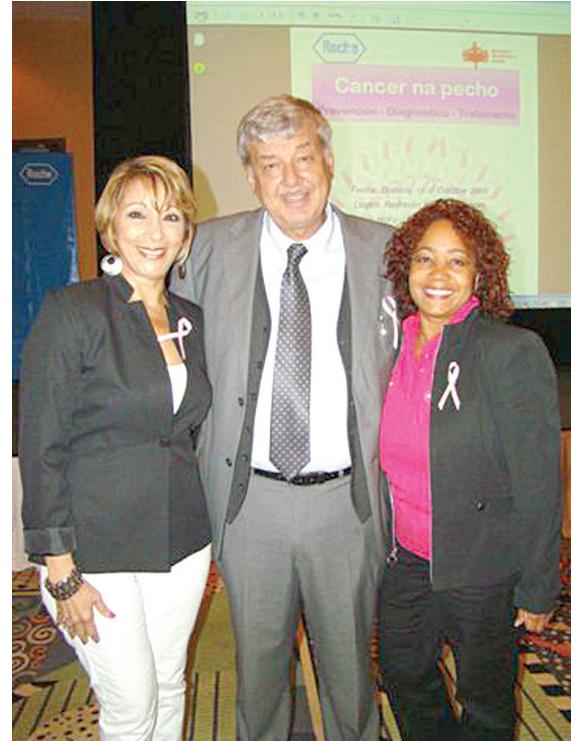


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 Dr Daryanani and Dr Wassenaar participated and shared from their experience as part of the program of the International Breast Cancer Awareness Month (IBCAM) Koningin Wilhelmina



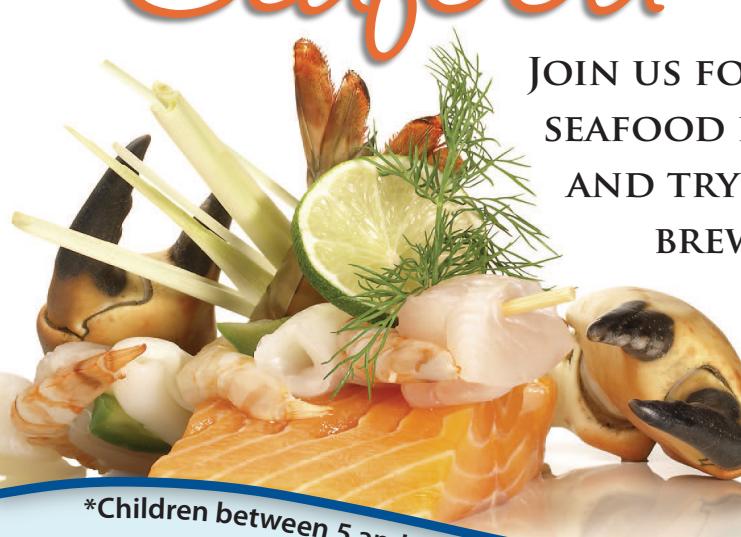
Fonds, was founded on February 4, 1961 with the objective to prevent and to fight cancer on Aruba. The foundation is widely known as Kankerfonds. The board consists of volunteers who dedicate their time freely to guide the foundation and those suffering from the disease on the island.

More information can be obtained at the information center, located at Spinozastraat 9, Tel. 582-0412. □



October Seafood Fest

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2 BALASHI BEERS PER BUFFET ORDER.

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tributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens

with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the common area to lounge and relax. Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclusive to the owners. Construction on Oasis at Eagle

Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer.

The experienced sales team of Oasis invites you for a visit to learn about this new gem on the beach.

The site tour will take you up in the complex where you will enjoy spectacular views of the ocean and beach as well as a wonderfull view of Oranjestad where the cruise ships are docked. The views from the rooftop terrace are stunning to say the least. The Oasis sales team is ready to assist you.

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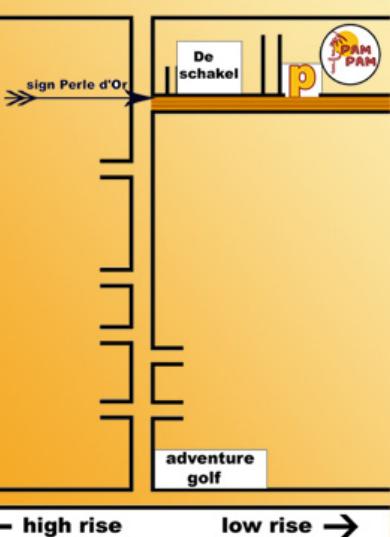


Restaurant



save money
4 course menu
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Soccer stadium



Located in the charming tropical environs of the Perle d'Or resort, the Pam Pam restaurant offers a peek at Aruba's cunucu (countryside) while still being conveniently located close to all of Aruba's prime resorts. First-time patrons will be pleasantly surprised by an appealing a la carte menu that is quite affordably priced.

Pam Pam has the biggest menu with a choice from 26 main-courses, **all priced between \$ 13 / \$ 23** no service charge

Pam Pam's house specialty is a unique method of preparation, which presently at Aruba is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their "gourmet meal. **Priced \$ 20 and \$ 27** A grill and a collection of fresh ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providing a unique and personal taste treat.

It is suggested that reservation for this singular dining experience be made before 3 p.m.

Or ask for our special priced 4 course menu, **now only \$ 23**

for reservation call: 5877710 / 5932660

HEALTH

Aruba TODAY

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Already in October the Christmas shows in the stores were set up to entice you to buy all the ornaments to decorate your home and business. Decorations and figures of a fat, red Santa are available, promising to put anyone in the Holiday Spirits. Medically, when I take a look at the store Santa figure, with his large rotund belly and red face that sports a bulbous nose I see many signs of heart attack candidate. Not that Santa Claus could have heart problems, not allowed.

As cute as round Santa seems to be, most people want to enter the Holiday Season looking fit and trim. In the next two months many people, especially women, are going to pay good money to join commercial weight loss programs in hopes of dropping a size or two. Unfortunately, people tend to regain the weight they lost following a program because once it's finished, they return to their normal eating habits. Furthermore, the body is always trying to fend off what it perceives to be starvation, and losing weight triggers hormone changes that make it difficult to keep shedding pounds.

In the last eleven years in our grass-roots clinic we have seen all kinds of lose weight schemes. This year I have listed all the erroneous beliefs that I have heard from our patients.

1. "Lose 30 pounds in 30 days." Any commercial weight loss programs or any other gimmick that pledges

Festival Figure

massive weight loss quickly is certainly not healthy, and not true. Permanent weight loss requires lifestyle change, not a quick fix. Loosing weight very fast usually means dehydrating your body and loosing muscle.

2. Lose weight by not eating. Without question the worse way to try to loose weight. Starving deprives the body of the nutrients it needs for life and can lead to serious illness. Plus you lose muscle mass, not fat. Even if you do lose pounds, you gain them back almost immediately when you start eating again.

3. Carbohydrates are bad for you. First it was fat, now carbohydrates are the bad guy. Insulin, stimulated by the excess simple carbohydrates in our overabundant consumption of grains, starches and sweets, together with sedentary lifestyles is responsible for all those bulging stomachs, fat thighs and chins. However there are healthy complex carbohydrates, such as vegetables, whole brown rice and quinoa, which provide vital vitamins, and fiber to aid digestion.

4. Fat is bad for you. Your brain is eighty percent fat; not fat you want to loose. Some fats like trans-fats found in processed foods and sweets are unhealthy, but many called essential fatty acids are good and necessary for your health. Your body is not going to be able to make your hormones without

these fats.

5. Drinking Diet sodas help you loose weight. There's not one study that shows diet sodas help you lose weight. Meanwhile while you are drinking your liquid candy you are consuming chemicals that have shown to cause cancer.

6. Salad bars are healthy. Lunch meats with chemical salts, cheeses, oily dressings are not healthy choices. You have to choose foods at a salad bar wisely to loose weight. Meanwhile, "Iceberg" lettuce has absolutely no nutritional value.

7. Don't eat after 6 p.m. Europeans eat at 10 o'clock at night and they're half the size of Americans and Arubans. It is not what time you eat, it's what you eat and staying active for at least three hours after you eat. The worse eating habit here in Aruba after a night of drinking is to eat a late snack at a food truck and then home to bed.

8. Check your weight on a scale daily to check your progress. Checking your weight on a regular basis is an obvious way to gauge your progress and alter your diet accordingly; however, that scale tells you very little. I encourage patients to keep track of hip, thigh and stomach tummy centimeters and dress sizes that are much more enlightening.

9. To lose weight take a pill or have an operation to have

your stomach made smaller. Wow, your insurance company may even pay some of these. You cannot replace healthy eating, exercise and lifestyle choices with a pill or operation. Drugs are not new, they have been tried for many years and both drugs and operations can be dangerous and have horrible side effects. A better choice includes natural dietary supplements which can safely balance nutritional deficiencies, aid in managing unhealthy eating, support restful sleep and increase energy.

10. You have to join the gym. Actually, 30 to 60 minutes per day of moderate physical activity is all it takes to balance healthy food intake. It does not have to be strenuous exercise, just move your body by gardening, walking, swimming, SCUBA diving, flying, dancing or having sex; just get off the couch.

Get The Point!

That majority of Americans and Arubans are overweight, and an alarming number are clinically obese. In countries addicted to convenient processed foods this obesity is no coincidence. It is not the fat in the foods we eat but, far more, the excess simple carbohydrates from our starch and sugar loaded diets. These nutritionally deficient diets not only contribute to increased weight but lead to a whole host of health problems. Want to enter the Holiday Season being fit and trim? That belly might look cute on Santa, but on you it is a major health risk. Call



to make an appointment for a professional, safe, sensible weight loss program.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor having studied in Shanghai, China; a Clinical Nutritionist, a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals, the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology, specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com

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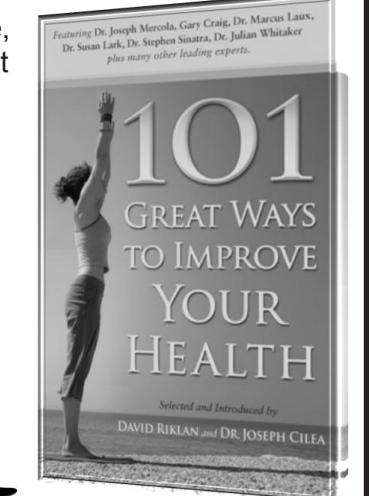
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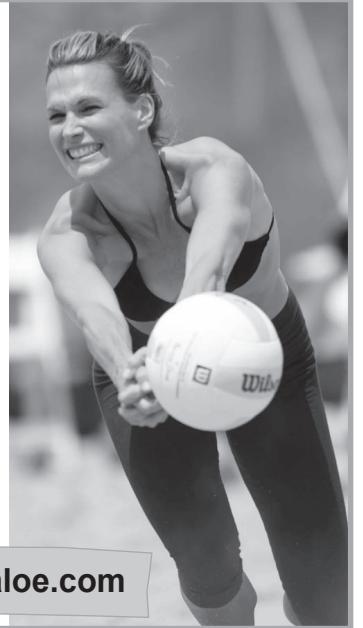
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RIL eyes oil refiners in US, Europe



Nevin John

The company feels valuations are low and the demand would later rise.

Mukesh Ambani, after completing the world's largest oil refining complex at Jamnagar in Gujarat, has now set his eyes on owning refining assets in the US and Europe.

His Reliance Industries (RIL) has initiated preliminary discussions with US-based refiners such as Valero Energy Corp, Sunoco Inc and Flying J Inc for acquiring refineries, said sources in the know. Royal Dutch Shell's three refineries in Europe are also on the Indian refiner's radar, they added.

Two senior officials said RIL was gearing to acquire assets worth \$3-4 billion (in the range of Rs 14,000-18,500 crore). Funds for acquisition

will not be an issue, as it is sitting on a cash reserve of \$5 billion (Rs 25,000 crore).

"As value depreciation is still very much an issue with refining assets in the US and Europe, RIL feels the timing is perfect for an acquisition. We are keen to have a global presence in refining, especially with some assets in the developed economies," said an executive who did not wish to be named.

Last week, RIL senior Vice-President Maurice Bannayan said, "We are in advanced talks with looking at refinery and petrochemical units for acquisition in the US and Europe, mostly in the US."

When asked, Valero spokesperson Bill Day said, "Valero has had its refinery in Aruba (in the Caribbean) available for sale since 2007, and we said we would

aggressively seek strategic alternatives – which could include a sale – for our refineries in New Jersey and Delaware. Valero does not identify the parties that have expressed an interest in any of our properties."

Virginia Parker, director of Marketing at Flying J, said: "We have no comment at this time."

All matters surrounding sale of assets are subject to strict confidentiality requirements." Sunoco officials declined to comment.

A RIL spokesperson said, "As a corporate policy, we do not comment on speculation."

Many European petroleum giants have put their refineries on the block after a slump in demand for fuels and petrochemical products. These refineries are either running at lower profit

margins or have shut, said a Mumbai-based analyst.

However, RIL feels there are signs of recovery in these markets and once the financial situation improves, the demand would trek high.

After the crash of financial markets, Valero had cut costs at plants at Paulsboro in New Jersey and Delaware City and pursued "strategic alternatives" for them and the shuttered 235,000 barrels per day (bpd) Aruba refinery, Chief Executive Officer Bill Klesse said in a recent memo to employees. Previously, Valero, which operates 18 refineries throughout the US, Canada and the Caribbean, used the term strategic alternatives when it put a refinery up for sale.

The Paulsboro refinery is in the same New Jersey county as the refinery Sunoco is shutting. Sunoco recently announced plans to indefinitely shut its 145,000 bpd Eagle Point refinery at Westville in New Jersey, furlough 400 workers and halve its dividend, as the continuing recession hurts the US refiner's profits.

Weak demand for refined products during the financial downturn, coupled with increased capacity, has pressured margins through the industry, and it is the right time for RIL to buy refineries at low cost, analysts said. Big West Oil LLC, which has two refineries in the US, has halted taking deliveries after parent Flying J filed

for bankruptcy. Big West's Bakersfield refinery has a processing capacity of 68,000 bpd, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Big West also has a 30,000 bpd plant in Salt Lake City.

Swiss-based refiner Petroplus said earlier this year it would sell its Teesside refinery in the UK by the end of June or turn it into a storage site if no buyer can be found. The 1,17,000 bpd plant stopped production in March 2009, when the company stopped buying crude for it.

Shell has been looking to sell its Harburg and Heide refineries in Germany for the past six months. In August, sources said India's Essar Oil had given a bid for both refineries, as well as for Stanlow, Shell's another refinery in the UK. Harburg has a capacity to process 110,000 bpd, while Heide can process 93,000 bpd. Stanlow has a capacity to process 267,000 bpd.

Other refineries up for sale in Europe include Italian firm Eni's Livorno refinery and Swiss-based Petroplus' Teesside refinery.

RIL is also eyeing the fuel retailing markets of the US and Europe, more than a year after it closed retail operations in India. Selling petrol directly in the US market could save the company a 5 to 10 per cent additional cost as traders' commission, and the company has approached the US authorities for approval to start direct fuel sales. □

Preparations moving forward for National Health Insurance

PHILIPSBURG--Important decisions are expected to be taken in the coming weeks with respect to an extensive review of medical tariffs linked to the proposed introduction of a new National Health Insurance

System (NHIS) for Country Sint Maarten, the Government Information Service (GIS) said Monday.

Decisions are also expected to be taken with respect to the reviewing of a comprehensive

health information system and a communication plan to facilitate and guide the introduction of the new NHIS. The decisions will be taken based on consultations with the advisory committee in which the relevant stakeholders such as health care providers, insurance companies, patient organisations, social partners and the private sector are represented.

GIS reported Director of Sector Public Health, Social Development and Labour Jorien Wuite as saying the Executive Council had presented a document with the relevant detailed proposals for the system to the broad-based advisory committee recently. She said the document

described the basic pillars of the new system: the preferred contribution scenario, a broad-based health care package, and other matters of the organizational framework such as the role of government and of the executing agency in health care financing.

GIS said this national effort should be seen in the light of preparations for country status being set for 10-10-10 and the especially approved project organisation to accomplish health financing reform with the objective of improved accessibility to health care services for all residents on St. Maarten.

Wuite explained that the new system would move away from what was referred to

as "the current fragmented system with various packages and a high percentage of the population that is left uninsured."

More emphasis will be placed on preventive health care services amongst the population, as this is expected to benefit the overall health of the population. Also, the developed health care coverage package for country Sint Maarten has been broadly defined according to the Dutch system.

"In order to introduce this system as of the date of obtaining country status, final decision-making on the pillars of this system by the Island Council is critical before the end of 2009," GIS said. □

May wisdom prevail

While the decision of the new governing ADB/Nicolaas coalition of Bonaire to have yet another constitutional referendum is considered an inconvenience at best by the other islands because it could delay the process of establishing new relations in the Dutch Kingdom as already agreed on, there is now at least clarity on the proposed date and question of the population consultation.

The January 15 date chosen by the referendum committee is reason for some concern because it is only one week before the Antillean Parliament election of January 22. This raises the issue of one voting process affecting the other, in terms of campaigning, behaviour at the polls and possibly turnout.

On the other hand, there were not that many other options if the referendum is to be held before the election, which from a political point of view is understandable. If one result must influence the other, allowing the referendum result to have an impact on the election is probably better than the other way around, considering the nature of a referendum.

As far as the proposed question to be asked is concerned, one has to wonder how fair the use of the term "integration" is when it comes to opting for status of public overseas body of the Netherlands currently on the table as negotiated by the former UPB Executive Council. After all, care was taken all along not to use that word, but rather "direct ties" with the Netherlands. Now making "free association" one of the two options for "direct ties" with the Netherlands is also debatable. In the view of many, such a "free association" implies anything but direct ties, with Dutch State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten even likening it to a choice for full, political independence. The latter may be taking it a bit too far, but the fact of the matter is that with the Netherlands not prepared to change what it's offering Bonaire based on agreements already made, just what a choice for "free association" will mean is a big question mark.

As far as the other islands are concerned, the direction Bonaire takes in the referendum could very well impact the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles and establishing new relations in the Kingdom effective 10-10-10 as planned. That is all the more the case for St. Eustatius and Saba, which as overseas public entities of the Netherlands are to form the BES islands with Bonaire.

All in all, developments in Bonaire have not made completing a process of constitutional change that started over two decades ago with the departure of Aruba in 1986 any easier. The hope is that the people of Bonaire will let wisdom prevail and choose for the security and clarity that the agreed-on status for the island provides, rather than the uncertainty and lack of clarity of "free association." □



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Stocks drop after mixed economic data, earnings



Specialist Damen Watson, right, directs trading at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2009.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

By TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK—An disappointing report on housing starts made investors nervous about the economy Tuesday and sent stocks lower even as profits at many companies exceed expectations.

Stocks fell from 2009 highs after the Commerce Department said home building rose less than expected in September, a discouraging signal for future construction activity.

The market will get another measure of the housing market's health Friday with a report on existing home sales. After several months of encouraging data on housing, investors have become disappointed in recent weeks with signs that a recovery in home building and home sales is starting to falter, which could bode poorly for the prospects of the broader economy.

A rebound in the dollar from a 14-month low against other major currencies also

hurt stocks by driving down commodity prices and, in turn, hurting energy and materials companies.

The housing data and the stronger dollar overshadowed strong earnings reports from Apple Inc., Caterpillar Inc. and health insurer UnitedHealth Group Inc.

There was more trouble for stocks from a Labor Department report finding that energy prices pushed U.S. wholesale prices lower in September, leaving a larger-than-expected monthly drop in the producer price index. That report helped lift the bond market, however, which tends to rise on signs of muted inflation and slow economic growth.

But Schaeffer's Investment Research analyst Todd Salamone said the market's ability to avoid a big slide is an encouraging sign.

"We've got a report that's disappointing and the bears haven't really gained

control here," he said. "It's a good excuse just to take a breather."

In midafternoon trading, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 76.03, or 0.8 percent, to 10,016.16.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 8.76, or 0.8 percent, to 1,089.15, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 16.71, or 0.8 percent, to

2,159.61. Treasury prices rose, pushing their yields lower, after the drop in producer prices. Inflation is a worry for bond investors because rising prices can eat into returns. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 3.33 percent from 3.39 percent late Monday. The dollar and gold rose. Crude oil fell 45 cents to \$79.16 a barrel on the New

York Mercantile Exchange. The day's slide came as investors navigate a busy week of corporate earnings reports for signals about the economy. Profits have topped expectations but many companies have relied on slashing costs to boost profits as they did in the first half of the year. That has some analysts worried. □

Fewer home-building permits signal weakness ahead

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER,
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Applications for home building permits, a key gauge of future construction, fell in September by the largest amount in five months — a discouraging sign for the housing industry. A rebound in housing is needed to support a broader economic recovery. Representatives for the industry told a congressional panel Tuesday that the \$8,000 tax credit for first-time buyers needs to be extended and expanded to ensure the housing sector will emerge from the recession.

But the Obama administration, facing soaring budget deficits, has not decided whether to support any extension. And some private economists played down the impact of such a move, arguing that most interested buyers already had taken advantage of the tax break. Meanwhile, the Labor Department said wholesale prices fell 0.6 percent last month on a drop in energy costs. Outside food and energy, core inflation edged down 0.1 percent. In the 12 months ending in September, core wholesale prices rose a modest 1.8 percent. The Commerce Department said construction of homes and apartments rose 0.5 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 590,000 units. That was a weaker showing than the 610,000 economists had expected.

The applications for building permits fell 1.2 percent, the second setback in the past three months and the biggest decline

since a 2.5 percent drop in April. It likely means construction will weaken a bit in coming months, partly because builders had accelerated projects to complete them before the tax credit expires Nov. 30.

The industry also faces other challenges, including record levels of home foreclosures and unemployment that is currently at a 26-year high of 9.8 percent and not expected to peak until next summer, said Sal Guatieri, an economist at BMO Capital Markets.

But Patrick Newport, a housing economist at Global Insight, said a slow recovery likely will continue because inventories of new homes have fallen so far that builders have an incentive to ramp up sales with or without a tax credit. "We see a very slow recovery for housing that will gradually gain strength over the next two to three years before construction gets back to more normal levels," Newport said. Housing has been struggling to recover this year following the worst collapse in decades, which helped pull the overall economy into the longest recession since the 1930s. Real estate agents and homebuilders are lobbying Congress to extend the tax credit, arguing government support remains critical. At a hearing Tuesday before the Senate Banking Committee, Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., who spent his career as a real estate agent before being elected to Congress, said "this market is going to die a sudden death" without an extension. □

Hollywood gushes bloodsuckers in vampire boom



In this film publicity image released by Summit Entertainment, Robert Pattinson portrays Edward Cullen, left, and Kristen Stewart portrays Bella Swan in a scene from 'The Twilight Saga: New Moon.'

(AP Photo/Summit

freak show.

While vampires have a strong pulse in Hollywood, some expect the genre could bleed out from overexposure.

"Sometimes there are trends with audiences and with film studios, TV stations, and they go wild, and they run like lemmings in one direction until they go over the cliff," said Werner Herzog, who directed 1979's "Nosferatu the Vampyre." "The genre of vampire films in its darkness and in its nightmarish aspect is a genre that will be forever, but sometimes, you have an overload, an overkill, and when the heap gets too, too big, everybody starts to turn away."

In his 2007 Antarctica documentary "Encounters at the End of the World," Herzog wisecracked that he was not making yet another movie about penguins, a reference to a spate of films on the cold-weather birds.

Penguins reached a glut after only a handful of movies, but the sheer variety of vampire stories lends them superhuman durability for exploring the issues and fears of mortals.

"I think vampires are richer veins than penguins," Reilly said. "There's only so much you can do with penguins. They're cute. They can't fly. They live in snow and ice."

Vampires benefit from modern fans' hunger for fantastic stories. Otherworldly tales once were aimed mostly at specialized horror, science-fiction or fantasy audiences, with a "Star Wars" or an "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" occasionally breaking out to huge crowds.

Movie-goers today besiege theaters for out-of-this-world stories, from "Harry Potter" and "The Lord of the Rings" to the latest adventures of Batman or the X-Men.

"We're at a supernatural height right now with superheroes and science fiction. I think it's all being embraced, with 'Battlestar Galactica' being a critical hit and 'Iron Man' being a huge mainstream hit," said Meredith Woerner, whose book "Vampire Taxonomy: Identifying and Interacting With the Modern-day Bloodsucker" hits stores in early November. "It's a great time where people are ready for some magic."

Vampires have been hardy souls on screen for ages, dating back to 1920s and '30s classics such as "Nosferatu," "Vampyr" and the original "Dracula," with Bela Lugosi. Dracula has been played by countless actors, among them Lon Chaney Jr., Christopher Lee, Frank Langella and Gary Oldman.

Movies and shows such as "The Lost Boys" and "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" transfused teen power to vampire tales, helping to open the current vein of hip, pretty young dead things in the genre.

"What's particular about them now is it's coinciding with the optimum market for TV and film. It's that young market, it's kind of the 'Dawson's Creek' thing," said Michael Sheen, who co-stars as the vampire Aro in the "Twilight" sequel and played a werewolf in the "Underworld" vampire franchise. □

By DAVID GERMAIN,
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES – Vampires have been an eternal force in Hollywood horror since silent-movie days, yet they have risen to new heights as the "Twilight" franchise, TV's "True Blood" and other incarnations put the bite on viewers.

In studio flicks, independent and foreign-language films and small-screen series, there are more bloodsuckers out there today than you can shake a wooden stake at.

With so many vampires afoot, will Hollywood's favorite night creatures lose their flavor with fans?

"Will there be a vampire glut? Will the vampire market crash? I don't know," said Chris Weitz, director of November's "The Twilight Saga: New Moon," part two in the movie series based on Stephenie Meyer's vampire-romance novels. "It's kind of the only growth industry in America, that I can tell."

So many of Dracula's brethren are being sired nowadays that Weitz and his brother have dueling vampire films out this fall.

Paul Weitz's "Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant" opens Friday, with John C. Reilly as a centuries-old bloodsucker in a traveling



Michael Jackson gestures during a news conference at the O2 Arena in London March 5, 2009.

REUTERS/Stefan Wermuth

Michael Jackson was "excited," ready for concerts

By Mirja Sernal

Mike Collett-White

LONDON (Reuters) – Michael Jackson was "excited" about performing a run of 50 live concerts in London for which he was rehearsing just before his sudden death in June, the director of a new movie about the "king of pop" said on Tuesday. In the last few days of his life, Jackson also appeared to have "gone into another gear" and showed no signs of drug dependency, Kenny Ortega told Reuters in an interview.

"This is It," a feature-length film built around footage of the final Los Angeles rehearsals before Jackson's death on June 25 aged 50, hits theatres around the world on October 28 and looks set to be one of the biggest movies of the year.

"He was excited, looking forward to (it), happy, pleased with what we had accomplished up until that moment and looking forward to finishing up the rehearsals in Los Angeles and moving on to London," Ortega said.

"Those last few nights of rehearsals it seemed like he'd gone into another gear, and everyone really believed that we were about to embark on something that was going to be rather remarkable." Asked whether Jackson had shown any signs of dependency on drugs, Ortega replied: "No."

Jackson died of a prescription drug overdose, and his death triggered fevered speculation about his physical state at the time and what drugs he may have taken.

According to Ortega, who had been working with Jackson on staging and choreographing of the "This Is It" concerts, the sellout shows were seen by the singer as his swansong. □

Weather Channel to air movies for first time

NEW YORK – The Weather Channel plans to show movies for the first time in its 27-year history.

First up? "The Perfect Storm."

The network has slipped longer programming into its constantly rotating forecasts in recent years. But over a four-week period starting the

night before Halloween, the cable network will try Friday night movies.

Its managers figured the George Clooney movie about a horrific storm off the New England coast would be a good first choice — particularly since it's airing on the 18th anniversary of the actual event. □

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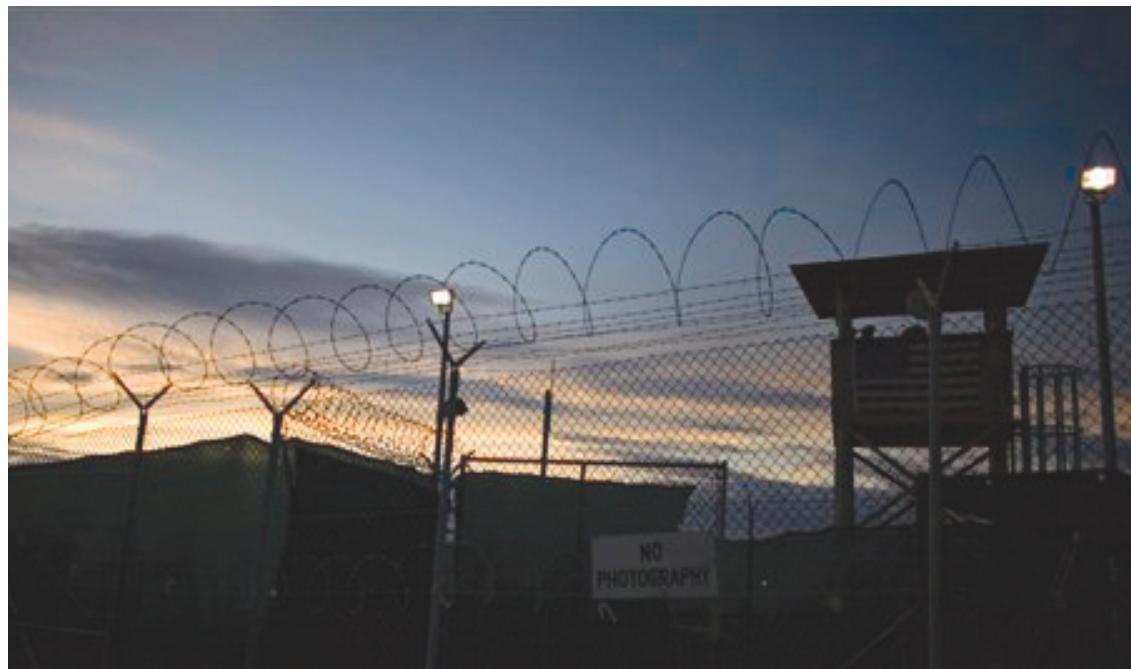


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In this file image reviewed by the U.S. Military, the sun rises over Guantanamo detention facility, at the U.S. Naval Base, in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Nov. 19, 2008.

Associated Press

Senate OKs move of Gitmo prisoners to U.S. for trial

ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama won a modest victory Tuesday in his continuing effort to close the Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba and allowing the government to continue to transfer detainees to the United States for prosecution.

The plan to permit terror suspects held at the facility to be shipped to U.S. soil to face trial passed the U.S. Senate by a 79-19 vote as part of a larger \$44.1 billion budget bill for the Homeland Security Department.

The measure already passed the House of Representatives and now goes to Obama to be signed into law. The Guantanamo provision generally tracks restrictions already in place that block release of detainees in the United States but permits them to be tried here.

In January, Obama ordered the facility closed within a year, but the administration has yet to deliver a plan and the effort has hit several roadblocks. Among the main problems was unease among Obama's Democratic allies in Congress who have refused to approve money for the effort.

The plan adopted Tuesday requires the administration to develop a plan before any further transfers. It also requires 15 days' notice before a transfer can occur and a certification that the prisoner does not represent a security risk.

The Senate debate over Guantanamo

prisoners was relatively sedate. Last week, House Democratic leaders had to press to defeat a Republican effort to block transfer of any of the Guantanamo Bay detainees to the United States, even to face trial.

"Prosecuting these individuals in our U.S. courts simply will not work, and there is too much at stake to grant the unprecedented benefit of our legal system's complex procedural safeguards to foreign nationals who were captured outside the United States during a time of war," said Republican Sen. Saxby Chambliss.

"Guantanamo must be closed because it's become a recruiting tool for al-Qaida and other terrorists," countered the second-ranking Senate Democrat, Dick Durbin.

The homeland security measure is one of several bills addressing the Guantanamo issue. A Senate-passed defense spending measure would block all transfers while a separate defense policy measure also would permit transfers for trial.

Separately, a group of retired generals and war veterans launched a national campaign Tuesday to rally support for closing the prison and transferring its inmates.

The campaign, "CLOSE GITMO NOW," begins Tuesday with a relatively modest \$100,000 ad buy on cable television channels across the country, exhorting Congress to reject the "failed Bush-Cheney policies."

Continued on Page B3

Immigrants angry over 'alien' Halloween costume



This Oct. 20, 2009 picture in Miami shows a Halloween costume depicting a space alien in an orange prison jumpsuit labeled "illegal alien" with a "green card." Immigrant advocates are urging retailers to pull the Halloween costume set, while a group that supports strict immigration laws says such a move impinges on freedom of speech.

Associated Press

LAURA WIDES-MUNOZ,
AP Hispanic Affairs Writer

MIAMI (AP) — A Halloween costume that depicts a space creature in orange prison garb emblazoned with the words "illegal alien" is reigniting debate over a long-used term based on the U.S. government's designation of all foreigners as aliens.

Continued on Page B5



Afghan President Hamid Karzai speaks, right, as Kai Eide, second right, head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, U.S. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass and U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Karl Eikenberry, left, are seen during a press conference in Kabul, Afghanistan on Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2009. Afghanistan's election commission today ordered a Nov. 7 runoff in the disputed presidential poll after a fraud investigation dropped incumbent Hamid Karzai's votes below 50 percent of the total. Karzai accepted the finding and agreed to a second round vote.

Associated Press

Afghans race to organize Karzai-Abdullah runoff

Read Page B8

Guantanamo detainees case reaches Supreme Court

MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The Supreme Court agreed Tuesday to decide whether Guantanamo detainees who are considered no threat can be ordered released in the United States — over the objections of the Obama administration and Congress — if the prisoners have nowhere else to go.

The case could further complicate the administration's plans to close the Guantanamo prison where 220 or so men are still held.

The court's fourth look at the terror-suspects detention system, created by the Bush

administration following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, will focus on 13 Chinese Muslims, most of whom were cleared by the Pentagon for release in 2003. Six years later — and eight years after their capture in Pakistan and Afghanistan in 2001 — they remain in custody at the U.S. naval base in Cuba. The first three high court decisions were rebukes to the government for denying detainees their day in court. The justices said they will hear a challenge from the Chinese Muslims, or Uighurs (WEE'-gurs), who are asking the court to put some teeth into its June 2008 ruling that said federal



judges could ultimately order some detainees to be released, depending on security concerns and other circumstances.

Acting after the Supreme Court ruling, a federal judge in Washington said the Uighurs must be released immediately into the United States because their continued confinement was unjustified and the U.S. government could find no country willing to take them. A federal appeals court, however, said the judge lacked the authority to order detainees released into the United States, setting up the new high court challenge.

The Uighurs say the ability to go before a federal judge is worthless if the judge ultimately has no power to free

people who are being wrongly held. The administration is defending the appeals court ruling, but also noting ongoing diplomatic efforts to find the Uighurs a home.

The Uighurs have no right to enter the United States, Solicitor General Elena Kagan told the court. In fact, Kagan said, "they are free to leave Guantanamo Bay to go to any country that is willing to accept them."

In the meantime, she said, they are no longer being detained as enemy combatants, but "are being housed under relatively unrestrictive conditions," given Guantanamo's status as a military base.

The justices will hear the argument early in 2010. □

although it is possible that if the administration succeeds in relocating the Uighurs by then, the case could be dismissed. President Barack Obama has promised to close the detention facility by next Jan. 22, although senior administration officials have since said that deadline might not be met. The administration, like its predecessor, has been trying to find somewhere to resettle the Uighurs, with limited success. Congress has since entered the picture, forbidding the administration to spend any money to send detainees to the United States, other than for prosecution, and requiring a detailed plan in advance of sending them anywhere in the world. □

This day in history

Today is Antilles Day on the island nations of Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten. Antilles Day is celebrated by all the Dutch-held islands in the region. It is a day of reflection and honor to all of those who have made significant contributions to the history of these islands.

Today is Trafalgar Day in the UK and the anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. On this day in 1805, the British and the combined French and Spanish fleets fought the famous Battle of Trafalgar that removed the threat of Napoleon's invasion of England.

The day was widely commemorated by parades, dinners and other events throughout much of the British Empire in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Today celebrations are mostly modest.

Today is Overseas Chinese Day in Taiwan. Thousands of overseas Chinese come to Taiwan for this and other occasions in October, making the month a special one.

Today is the anniversary of the Revolution in Somalia. Oct. 21 and 22 commemorate the bloodless revolution of 1969 that brought military-led scientific socialism into power.

Today is Apple Day in England. This is an annual celebration of apples and orchards held in Covent Garden, London. Apple Day was initiated in 1990 by Common Ground, a UK charity and lobby group promoting "local distinctiveness." Common Ground has used the apple as a symbol of the physical, cultural and genetic diversity we should not let slip away.

Today is the anniversary of the 1995 Dayton Agreement, which provided the general framework for peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Today is the birthday of Alfred Bernhard Nobel (1833-1896), the Swedish chemist and engineer who invented dynamite. His will established the Nobel Prize.

Gregorian Calendar: 21 October 2009 C.E.

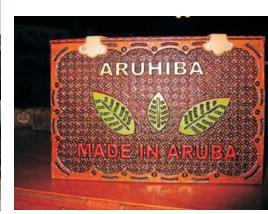
Hijri Calendar: 3 Dhul-Qadah 1430 A.H.

Hebrew Calendar: 3 Cheshvan 5770 □

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SENATE OKs**Continued from Page B1**

The underlying spending bill also backs the Obama administration's refusal to release new photos showing U.S. personnel abusing detainees held overseas. The measure supports Obama's decision to allow the defense secretary to bar the release of detainee photos for three years.

The American Civil Liberties Union has filed suit to obtain unreleased photos of detainee abuse under the federal Freedom of Information Act and won two rounds in federal court.

The bill essentially would overcome the ACLU's case.

The administration has appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, and Obama has said he would use every available means to block release of additional detainee abuse

photos, because they could whip up anti-American sentiment overseas and endanger U.S. troops. His powers include issuing an order to classify the photos, thus blocking their release.

On another matter, Republican Sen. Jim DeMint complained that negotiators dropped a plan to require double-layer fences along 700 miles of the border with Mexico rather than vehicle barriers and high-tech equipment.

The agreed bill also would overturn a decades-old provision of U.S. law that made a foreigner whose U.S. citizen spouse died within two years of their marriage eligible for expulsion from the country, said Michael Mershon, spokesman for a sponsor of the legislation, Democratic Rep. James McGovern. Opponents called the rule the "Widows Penalty." □



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In this April 7, 2009 file photo, Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., talks with reporters during a news conference at the Toussaint Louverture airport in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. New cracks are opening in the relationship between President Barack Obama and his liberal allies in Congress over his desire to continue Bush-era tactics against terrorism and his opposition to protecting reporters from revealing their sources in national security cases. Conyers, D-Mich., compared a witness the Obama administration sent to Capitol Hill with the witnesses dispatched by the Bush administration, which fought battles with liberals over enemy combatants, secret overseas prisons, warrantless wiretaps and the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Associated Press

Obama trying to boost Democratic party money, morale



In this April 5, 2009, file photo President Barack Obama addresses a crowd in Prague. In the portfolio of presidential phrases, none is more pervasive than Obama's four-word favorite: Let me be clear.

Associated Press

BEN FELLER

LIZ SIDOTI

Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — The leader who prods his critics to put politics aside is doing anything but these days: President Barack Obama is campaigning for his party's

future.

Barreling Tuesday into several days of frenetic political activity, Obama The Campaigner has work to do in helping raise money and rally loyalists for lesser-known Democrats.

Dollars aren't materializing as

much as expected — even with a record-shattering fundraiser like Obama at the party's helm and working furiously to bring in cash. And, two weeks before off-year elections, Democrats are facing the prospect of losing hard-fought gubernatorial races in Virginia

and perhaps New Jersey, contests that depend on the Democratic base and that to a certain degree are shaping up as a test of Obama's political strength.

All that's a wake-up call for a party that controls both the White House and Congress and for a president elected in an electoral landslide less than a year ago.

So, as the Democratic standard-bearer, Obama is putting his time on the line and his prestige to the test with a blitz of fundraisers and campaign appearances.

Obama stands to raise as much as \$3 million in New York City for the Democratic National Committee on Tuesday as well as an unspecified sum for Bill Owens, the Democrat in a special congressional election in upstate New York.

The president also will campaign for Democrats in New Jersey, Virginia, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Florida in the coming days, a notable cashing-in of Obama's time as he fights to pass health care reform and tries to find a winning

Afghanistan strategy.

It's not just this year's races that are at issue but also the broader state of the Democratic Party — from cash-flow to enthusiasm — heading into next year. In the 2010 elections, Democrats will try to defend their majorities in Congress and seek to pick up governor's seats.

The party in power typically loses congressional seats in the first election of a president's term. Obama certainly wants to avoid the fate of fellow Democrat Bill Clinton, who similarly swept into the presidency with youthful energy only to see his party lose control of Congress two years later.

With all that at stake, Obama is choosing to insert himself intensely into the process while keeping in mind that he also could be associated with defeats should Democrats lose.

Including Tuesday's events, Obama will have headlined 23 fundraisers so far in his nine-month presidency, according to Mark Knoller of CBS News, who keeps a detailed log of presidential activities. This compares with six for President George W. Bush's first year in office, though his efforts were cut short because of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Obama is calculating that he can't afford criticism from the Democratic Party's base supporters that he's not helping candidates. But there are also risks to full-throttle campaigning: His own power is being gauged.

"If governors and members of the House and Senate come to the conclusion that Obama's personal support is not transferrable or that his supporters have not remained mobilized, the impact of his personal charisma will be seen as more limited than it was a year ago," said Kenneth Sherrill, a political science professor at Hunter College in New York.

"All in all, he gets more credit for making a public effort than for sitting on the sidelines and watching Democrats at risk fend for themselves," Sherrill said. □

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FAA investigating balloon flight

P. SOLOMON BANDA

Associated Press Writers

FORT COLLINS, Colorado

(AP) — The Federal Aviation Administration has opened its own investigation into the 50-mile (80-kilometer) flight of the helium balloon that briefly delayed flights at Denver International Airport after a couple reported that their 6-year-old son may have been on board, an official said Tuesday.

FAA spokesman Mike Fergus said the agency investigates civil allegations rather than criminal ones. He declined to

provide details on the nature of the FAA probe or its possible outcome.

Larimer County Sheriff Jim Alderden has said investigators believe amateur storm chasers Richard and Mayumi Heene called the emergency dispatcher Thursday saying they thought their son, Falcon, was aboard the large helium balloon that floated away from their yard in Fort Collins in a bid to get publicity for a reality TV show.

The balloon landed 50 miles (80 kilometers) away near Denver International Airport.

Some flights had to be changed to a different runway for 20 minutes.

Falcon was found safe at home.

Alderden said he is seeking charges against the Heenes including conspiracy, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, making a false report to authorities, and attempting to influence a public servant. The most serious charges are felonies and carry a maximum sentence of six years in prison.

Alderden said authorities also would be seeking restitution

strangers, scary."

Cabrera said he knew the costume could be taken as a play on words but the jumpsuit was too close to what many immigrants must wear in detention centers, "where they can spend months at a time, and where there is a lot of suffering."

"That the creature was holding a green card was a stab at a (broader) community," he said, because it suggests even with a legal document, immigrants are still scary criminals.

William Gheen, head of the North Carolina-based political action committee Americans for Legal Immigration, said efforts to get stores not to sell the costume amounted to an attack on freedom of speech. He urged Americans to buy the costumes in protest.

"I looked at the costume and thought it was kind of funny. The only thing that wasn't funny was how many illegal immigrants are in this country," said Gheen, who has given speeches suggesting Latin Americans are bringing an epidemic of tuberculosis to the U.S., despite government figures showing the illness is at an all-time low.

Gheen said he didn't understand why people would have a problem with words used in federal law.

"This is a battle over psycholinguistics," he said, referring to the study of the relationship between language and the psychology or behavior of those who use it. "Nobody is supposed to be able to use the words 'illegal aliens' ... except in the government literature."

There's a big difference between how words are used officially and what people say in popular language, said Charleton McIlwain, professor of race and media at New York University.

"When people (informally) talk about immigrants, the term aliens seems to almost exclusively get used for Mexicans or other Latin Americans. We don't talk about Canadian aliens," he said.

Many major media organizations, including The Associated Press, no longer use the term "Illegal Alien" unless quoting an individual or government text. □

HALLOWEEN COSTUME Continued from Page B1

The dispute has immigrant advocates calling on retailers to pull the costume from its shelves, while a group that supports strict immigration laws say it's all a to-do over nothing, with freedom of speech being turned upside down by political correctness.

Since Friday, when the Coalition for Humane Immigration Rights in Los Angeles first raised the issue, companies including Target, Walgreens and eBay have removed the costume from their inventory. Still, many local retailers continue to stock the costume that also comes with a "green" card — which technically makes the alien a legal resident. At costume stores in Miami, the responses have been mixed.

Don King, whose mother immigrated from Cuba, bought pirate and Homer Simpson costumes Tuesday at Halloween USA in midtown Miami, where the costume is on sale but has attracted few customers. "It's a joke," King said. "I really don't think much of it."

A few miles away in the Little Havana neighborhood, workers at a popular costume store said it was not something they would carry because it was discriminatory. They do stock a human taco costume, replete with a Mariachi hat.

Cashier Carmen Torres, who recalled facing discrimination after arriving from Cuba as a young girl in the 1960s, said the costume was tasteless. "They haven't done anything bad. You can punish those who are criminals, but not people who are trying to, trying to work," Torres said.

Target has said it sold the costume online only and that it was posted by accident though it did not meet the company's standards. eBay said it asked sellers to remove the costume because it "does not allow items that promote or glorify hatred, violence, racial, sexual, or religious intolerance, or promote organizations with such views."

Jorge-Mario Cabrera, a spokesman for the immigrant coalition, said the costume "perpetuates this idea we have about undocumented immigrants as alien foreigners,



for the costs of the balloon chase, though he didn't provide a figure.

His office has said it will likely be sometime next week before it forwards its findings to prosecutors to decide on charges.

Richard Heene previously has denied a hoax.

He emerged briefly from the family's home Tuesday morning but didn't answer reporters' questions.

Heene did show two delivery workers where to find five leased helium tanks that were being returned to Flexx Productions, a Fort Collins rental company. The workers said four of the tanks were empty and one was partially full.

An associate of Heene's, Robert Thomas, has told sheriff's investigators that he helped record Heene's ideas for a TV show, said Thomas' attorney, Linda Lee.

Lee said Monday that Heene was "obsessed" with trying to land a TV show and become famous.

"Heene believes the world is going to end in 2012," she said.

"Because of that, he wanted to make money quickly, become rich enough to build a bunker or something underground, where he can be safe from the sun exploding."

Thomas told NBC's "Today" show on Tuesday that he had nothing to do with the hoax

and didn't know about the balloon being launched until he saw it on television. Asked whether he should be profiting by selling his story, Thomas, who described himself as an entrepreneur and a college student, said he was told that people sell their stories to the media and that he was paid "way less than most people think."

Thomas helped Richard Heene organize his thoughts and worked with him from March to May, Lee said. Thomas' notes include Richard Heene discussing a hoax that involved a balloon to make it seem like there was a UFO, Lee said.

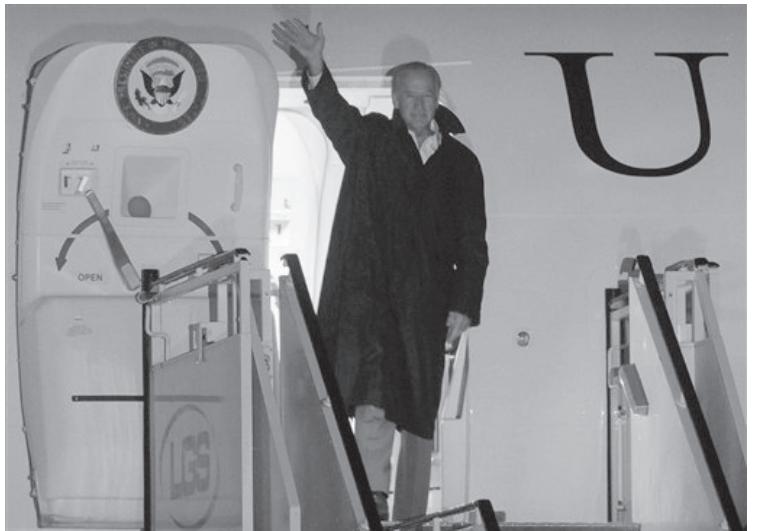
Lee said investigators told her Thomas would not face charges but that she was seeking immunity for him "just to be safe." Thomas has said he had no idea that a possible hoax could involve the Heene children.

The Heenes twice appeared on the ABC network's reality TV show "Wife Swap," including a March episode in which they discuss their approach to parenting and talk about their belief that they're the descendants of aliens.

The producer of "Wife Swap" had a show in development with the Heenes but said the deal is now off. The TLC cable network also said Heene had pitched a reality show months ago, but it passed on the offer. □



Biden to reassure Poles during European trip



U.S. Vice President Joe Biden gestures as he arrives at the Okocie military airport in Warsaw, Poland, Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2009. Biden arrived in Poland late Tuesday on the highest-level visit yet by the Obama administration to the country, a gesture Poles view as Washington's attempt to repair damage done by its handling of missile defense plans.

Associated Press

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R	FINAL DESTINATION 4	daily: matinee:	8:00	10:00 12:00 3D
R	JENNIFER'S BODY	1:00	5:30 3:15	7:45 late show: 10:00 12:15
PG	TOY STORY 3D	12:00	4:00 2:00	6:00 late show: 3D
R	THE INFORMANT	daily: matinee:	7:00	9:30 late show: 12:00
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PG-13	SURROGATES	4:15 1:45	6:30 8:45 late show:	11:15
PG	TOY STORY 3D	12:15	4:15 2:15	6:15 late show: 3D
PG-13	TYLER PERRY'S I CAN DO BAD ALL BY MYSELF	daily: matinee:	8:30 late show:	11:00
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R	FINAL DESTINATION 4	daily: matinee:	8:15	10:15 late show: 12:15 3D
R	WHITEOUT	12:45	5:15 3:00	7:30 late show: 9:45 12:00

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VANESSA GERA

Associated Press Writer

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — U.S. Vice President Joe Biden has arrived in Poland on the highest-level visit yet by the Obama administration to the country — a gesture Poles view as Washington's attempt to repair damage done by its handling of missile defense plans.

President Barack Obama is deeply admired in Western Europe but his administration is less popular in Poland and other former Soviet satellites because of Washington's drive to mend ties with Russia — still deeply feared in the region — and plans to reconfigure Bush-era missile defense plans.

Biden's two-day visit to Poland will be followed by stops in Romania and the Czech Republic. He landed Tuesday night in Warsaw in a steady rain, waving as he left his plane.

The White House has said defense issues will feature in his talks in the three countries, all NATO members with troops in Afghanistan, and that Biden will discuss Obama's missile defense plans during his talks, as well.

The visit is seen by the Polish public and leaders as "mainly about damage control and trying to make up for mistakes," said Bartosz Wisniewski, a foreign policy analyst with the Polish Institute of International Affairs.

Obama in September scrapped Bush's plans to put missile defense interceptors in Poland and a radar in the Czech Republic, a system intended to shoot down future long-range missiles from Iran.

The administration's planned replacement would instead be aimed against Iranian short- and intermediate-range missiles;

it says that makes more sense in part because Iran doesn't yet have long-range capabilities.

Obama has promised Poland and the Czech Republic the right to host elements of the new system. In particular, the U.S. has offered Warsaw the chance to host SM-3 missiles — the U.S. Navy's Standard Missile-3, an anti-ballistic missile that the Pentagon says is the most technically advanced and cost-effective way to counter Iran's anticipated arsenal.

Polish Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski said he expected Biden to flesh out this offer during the visit, but that no history-making decisions would be made during Biden's short visit.

"We expect details of the offer and will react in light of these, but please do not expect any dramatic or momentous events," Sikorski told reporters as he flew Tuesday to Poland from Israel, according to the news agency PAP.

"Poland is to be part of this system in the third phase — that is, around 2018 — so there is still a lot of time to work out the details."

But even hosting SM-3s would mark a scaled-down role for Poland in the U.S. missile defense system, a fact lamented by Polish President Lech Kaczynski and a host of political observers.

"Today we know one thing — Poland's role in the new plan will not be as big as the role it was to have in the Bush plan," Lukasz Kulesa, an analyst at the Warsaw-based Polish Institute of International Affairs, wrote Tuesday in the Gazeta Wyborcza daily.

He said the White House's new plan "does not give us an exclusive position," and that any SM-3 missiles that might be placed in Poland

"will only be of secondary significance."

Poles were also dismayed that Obama announced his plans for a reconfigured missile defense system on Sept. 17, the 70th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Poland at the start of World War II — timing that signaled to them a lack of sensitivity.

Kulesa said that, with Biden's visit, "The Americans are clearly trying to cover over the disastrous impression made by the manner in which the Americans presented their change to missile defense on Sept. 17th."

Biden's national security adviser, Tony Blinken, said Monday that Obama's shift on missile defense, which was welcomed by Russia, does not threaten Poland or its neighbors.

"We've been very clear from day one that we are seeking to improve relations with Russia, but not at the expense of any of our partners," Blinken said.

Biden's stops in Bucharest and Prague come with both countries in political limbo. The Czech Republic has a weak caretaker government that lacks the power to move forward on any missile defense deals.

In Romania, where a weak caretaker government also leads the country, three candidates campaigning for a November presidential election all hope to be given a boost by Biden's visit.

They "want to be taken notice of, to say 'look, we have America behind us,'" said Bogdan Chiriac, a Romanian political analyst. But that state of limbo probably means Washington will hold off until after the election to initiate any significant new military or economic business with Bucharest, Chiriac argued.

N. Korea diplomat in China ahead of rare trip to U.S.

HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— A senior North Korean diplomat stopped in Beijing en route to the United States for a rare visit aimed at laying the groundwork for direct negotiations with Washington, news reports said.

The North's deputy nuclear envoy, Ri Gun, told reporters at a Beijing airport Tuesday that he would "soon" go to the U.S., South Korean news agency Yonhap reported. Ri is scheduled to stay in Beijing for a few days for talks with Chinese officials, the report said. The South's YTN television network carried a similar report. China's Foreign Ministry said it had no information about Ri's visit.

Ri's trip to the U.S. comes as Washington is considering North Korea's offer of one-on-one nuclear negotiations.

Ri is scheduled to attend a security forum in California early next week before flying to New York for

a seminar. South Korean news reports have said he is expected to meet with the chief U.S. nuclear negotiator, Sung Kim, to set up bilateral talks.

U.S. State Department spokesman Ian Kelly told reporters Tuesday that at least one department official would attend the security forum, but no decision has been made yet on who to send. He said Monday that no bilateral talks with North Korea were scheduled to date.

But a U.S. official said last week that Ri would likely discuss nuclear matters with a senior U.S. diplomat while in the United States. The U.S. official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss such a sensitive diplomatic contact.

North Korea has long sought direct negotiations with the U.S. The communist regime claims it was compelled to develop atomic bombs to cope with what it calls "U.S. nuclear threats."

The U.S., which denies making any such threats, has

said it is willing to engage the North in direct talks if it is assured such talks would lead to Pyongyang ending its boycott of six-nation disarmament talks involving China, Japan, South Korea, Russia and the U.S.

"We're ... willing to have bilateral talks if such talks will advance our goal of the complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula," Kelly said Tuesday. "And we think the best way to achieve that is through the six-party talks."

The North pulled out of the six-party talks in April in protest at international criticism of a long-range rocket launch. It then conducted its second-ever nuclear test in May and a series of ballistic missile tests.

North Korea has reached out to Seoul and Washington in recent months. Analysts say it shows U.N. sanctions for the North's nuclear test have hurt the regime.

In Beijing, Philip Goldberg, the U.S. official in charge of enforcing U.N. sanctions



South Koreans pass a TV set broadcasting a news about North Korean leader Kim Jong Il at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009. North Korea is in the final stage of restoring its nuclear facilities, a news report said Tuesday, as Kim expressed a conditional willingness to end Pyongyang's boycott of international nuclear talks.

Associated Press

against the North, said after talks with Chinese officials that sanctions are an "essential aspect" of efforts to get Pyongyang to disarmament talks, and that he sees no disagreement with China on that point. The North's top nuclear negotiator, Kim Kye Gwan, expressed his hopes for "successful talks" with the U.S. and "good future relations" with the United

Nations in an interview aired Monday night.

"I just wish Americans well and (that) everything goes well in the United States," Kim told the Fox News Channel. "And I want peace in the United States, so we are committing our own efforts for the good results and good future relations with the United Nations and for successful talks with the United States." □

Afghans race to organize Karzai-Abdullah runoff



HEIDI VOGT,
Associated Press Writer

KABUL (AP) — Facing Taliban threats and approaching winter snows, Afghan election officials must now scramble to organize a runoff presidential election on Nov. 7 after a grim President Hamid Karzai bowed to intense U.S. pressure and acknowledged Tuesday that he fell short of a majority.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said it will be a "huge challenge" to pull off new balloting without repeating the widespread fraud that caused U.N.-backed investigators to strip Karzai of nearly a third of his votes from the Aug. 20 first-round election.

Although Karzai's capitulation was a relief to American officials and averted a constitutional crisis, new balloting carries with it the risk of low turnout or another round of wholesale ballot-stuffing and voter intimidation. Another failed election would bring the Obama administration no closer to its

goal of a credible, legitimate Afghan government necessary to win public support in the U.S. for the war and reverse the Taliban rise.

If the election goes relatively well, it's unclear that a second-round win by Karzai, widely considered the favorite over former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, would erase the stain brought on his leadership by widespread fraud in the first balloting Aug. 20.

Karzai, standing alongside Sen. John Kerry and U.N. mission chief Kai Eide, said he welcomed the runoff. He called the decision to hold a second round "legitimate, legal and according to the constitution of Afghanistan." "We believe it will strengthen the process of democratization in Afghanistan," he said. "It's going to be a historic period." But Karzai did not express regret over massive fraud — most of it on his behalf — uncovered by U.N.-backed investigators after the first election.

"This is not the right time to discuss investigations," Karzai said, speaking exactly two months after the first election. "This is the time to move forward toward stability and national unity."

Karzai appeared before reporters moments after the government election commission accepted the findings of the auditors that the president fell short of a majority. The Karzai-influenced commission released preliminary results last month that showed the president winning with more than 54 percent out of a field of 36 candidates.

Agreement came at the end of a day of intensive talks between Karzai and Kerry, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He praised the Afghan leader for "genuine leadership in the decision he has made today." The two men met at least four times before the announcement.

An Afghan who is close to Karzai told The Associated Press that both Kerry and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had made clear that the United States and its international partners could not accept the results of an election that was so tainted by fraud. The Afghan spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject.

Although accepting a new election, Karzai demonstrated flashes of irritation, occasionally glancing at his watch as the news conference

dragged on. Karzai supporters had complained of interference by foreigners, especially those on the U.N.-backed panel, which investigated and reported the fraud.

Karzai, an ethnic Pashtun, noted that most of the rejected ballots were from his power base in the Pashtun-dominated south, where the Taliban insurgency is strongest. He said those votes were "disrespected" and should be investigated further.

In an interview later with The Associated Press, Kerry described the evolution in Karzai's thinking.

"President Karzai really deeply believes he had won the election and ... that the international community was kind of conspiring to push for a different outcome," Kerry said in a telephone interview from Dubai. "He had people within his government, people within the election commission who felt they were being insulted about putting together a faulty election process."

"There were a lot of very deep feelings about Afghanistan's right to run its election, its competency in running it and so forth," Kerry continued.

In Washington, President Barack Obama said he called Karzai to thank him for having the interests of the "Afghan people at heart." He praised Karzai for displaying a commitment to the rule of law during a difficult time in Afghanistan.

A spokesman for Abdullah welcomed Karzai's acceptance of the results. Fazel Sancharaki added, however, that the Abdullah camp regretted it took so much arm-twisting to make it happen.

"From the very beginning Karzai knew that he would be below 50 percent and there would be a runoff, but he was not ready to accept it," Sancharaki said.

During days of intensive talks, a number of scenarios were discussed to avoid a runoff, including a power-sharing deal between the two candidates, according to Western officials familiar with the talks. However, Karzai ruled out such an option Tuesday, telling reporters "there is no space for a coalition government in the

law."

Karzai, son of a Pashtun tribal chief, was installed as chairman of the transitional administration that led the country after the hardline Islamist government collapsed. He was warmly embraced by the Bush administration but fell out of favor over allegations of weak leadership, government corruption and his ties to warlords.

Abdullah, an ophthalmologist, was a close ally of legendary anti-Taliban commander Ahmed Shah Massoud, who was assassinated shortly before the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the U.S. He became spokesman of the government that replaced the Taliban and later served as Karzai's foreign minister.

The Afghan commission and its U.N. advisers now face the daunting task of organizing another election. Among other things, officials must replace at least 200 district election officials linked to the Aug. 20 abuses.

In New York, Ban said the United Nations would try to make sure the Nov. 7 runoff occurs in a "free, fair, transparent and secure environment."

"The United Nations will ensure to provide more necessary technical assistance," he said.

U.S. and Afghan forces must also provide security for the balloting to prevent a repeat of Taliban attacks in August that killed dozens. In some areas, militants cut off the ink-marked fingers of people who had voted.

Spirited contests for provincial councils helped raise the August turnout. This time, only Karzai and Abdullah will be on the ballot — and it will be colder.

Yet in Kandahar city, a Karzai stronghold, a group of about 90 tribal elders who back the president said they would tell their followers to turn out and vote.

"We are very happy he didn't agree to a coalition government and all of our tribes have decided today that we will take part in a runoff election," said Fazel Uddin Agha, a middle-aged elder who spoke for the group. □



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Kenyan building collapse kills 6, 14 still missing

TOM ODULA

Associated Press Writer

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Six people died and 14 were still missing after a three-story building collapsed on the outskirts of the country's capital, a police official said Tuesday, as experts warned that irresponsible contractors were to blame.

Policeman Samuel Mukindia said two people died while receiving treatment at a Nairobi hospital. The bodies of three men were pulled from the rubble at the building site in Kiambu. Another victim, a woman, was crushed to death. Police said 13 people were injured.

The Kenya Red Cross said 14 people were still unaccounted for after being reported missing by their relatives and friends.

Millicent Wairumu said she believed her younger brother David Wachira was trapped in the rubble. She cooked him

breakfast Monday morning and asked him to work in her shop. He declined her offer, saying he wanted to earn his own money and he was already staying in her house. "I can't reach him on his mobile phone," she wept as she dialed his number on her phone. "He should not have been here. I should have insisted he came to work for me."

Monday's disaster came barely a week after the Kenya Architectural Association said in a report that 65 percent of structures in the country were substandard.

Richard Chepkwony, a member of the Institution of Engineers of Kenya, said the organization was receiving almost daily reports of buildings collapsing because of poor construction. He said the building collapsed on Monday because of its substandard construction material and poor workmanship.

"If you grab a block of



A survivor of a collapsed three story building is carried away by rescuers in Kiambu, Kenya, Monday, Oct. 19, 2009. A Kenyan police official says an unknown number of people are trapped in the rubble of a collapsed three story building in Kiambu.

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Building collapses are common in Africa. Corrupt planning officials, substandard materials and poor workmanship are often to blame. □



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MLB Playoffs

Mathis' RBI double in 11th wins it for Angels

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — Jeff Mathis hit a two-out double in the 11th inning to drive home the winning run as the Los Angeles Angels survived a second straight thriller to beat the Yankees 5-4 Monday and trim New York's lead in the American League championship series to 2-1.

In a game full of missed chances for both sides, the Angels eventually rallied to hand the Yankees their first loss of this postseason.

Howie Kendrick homered, tripled and then singled with two outs in the 11th. Mathis followed with his drive up against the left-field wall, and Kendrick slid home well ahead of a desperate throw.

Mathis, the Angels' backup catcher, came up with his third late-inning, extra-base hit of this crazy series.

Vladimir Guerrero also homered as the Angels overcame a midgame 3-0



Philadelphia Phillies players celebrate after Carlos Ruiz (51) scored the winning run in the ninth inning of Game 4 of the National League Championship baseball series against the Los Angeles Dodgers Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2009, in Philadelphia. The Phillies won 5-4 to take a 3-1 lead in the series.

Associated Press

Continued on Page B12

Hingis says she won't come back to tennis

PARIS (AP) — Former No. 1 Martina Hingis won't make a comeback to competitive tennis. The 29-year old Hingis, who retired after getting a two-year ban in 2007 for testing positive for cocaine, said Tuesday in an interview with L'Equipe that she is happy with her new life. "I've got a nice house, my four horses," Hingis said. "On the tour, I had no life." Hingis added that even without being tested positive, she would likely have retired. "If I had won the four Grand Slam tournaments, maybe I would have continued," she said. "But I was on downslope. And I was suspended for two years, and that was it." Hingis, who spent 209 weeks at No. 1 in the women's rankings and won

five Grand Slam singles titles, said she went through hard times during her suspension. "I didn't have the right to play any competition, even in an other Olympic sport," she said. "I didn't have the right to feature in equestrian competition, even at an amateur level. ... I'm not sure I have completely recovered." Hingis added that she learned that her suspension was over on Sept. 30 — her birthday — a few days after undergoing a doping test at her home. "They thought maybe, like you, that I was planning a second comeback," she said. Hingis quit tennis for the first time in 2002 because of foot and leg injuries. When she returned to the circuit in 2006, Hingis reached two Grand Slam



This Nov. 1, 2007, file photo shows Swiss tennis player Martina Hingis during a news conference in Glattbrugg, Switzerland. Former No. 1 Martina Hingis won't make a comeback to competitive tennis. The 29-year old Hingis, who retired after getting a two-year ban in 2007 for testing positive for cocaine, said Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2009, in an interview with L'Equipe that she is happy with her new life.

Associated Press

quarterfinals, won two smaller tournaments and finished the year ranked No. 7. □

deficit and four solo homers by the Yankees' stars, including Jorge Posada's tying shot in the eighth.

Game 4 is Tuesday night, with CC Sabathia pitching on three days' rest against Angels newcomer Scott Kazmir. Game 5 in the best-of-seven series is Thursday.

For the second straight game, the Angels and Yankees played into tense extra innings, stretching nerves and bullpens still frayed from Saturday's 13-inning, 310-minute Yankees' victory in New York.

Phillies 5, Dodgers 4

At Philadelphia, Jimmy Rollins lined a two-run double with two outs in the ninth inning off closer Jonathan Broxton as Philadelphia rallied past the Los Angeles Dodgers for a 3-1 lead in the National League championship series.

MLS earns high marks again for diversity

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Soccer once again earned high marks for its racial and gender hiring.

The league received its third consecutive A for racial hiring on Tuesday from the University of Central Florida's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport. It's gender grade improved to a B from a C-plus last year and a D-plus in 2007.

The league office's A-plus for gender countered a D-plus for team professional positions and a C-minus for team senior administrators.

MLS's combined race and gender grade of B-plus was the same as last year, but its points total increased to 86.5 from 85.7.

White players increased from 59 percent in 2007 to 62 percent in 2008, while African-Americans dropped from 22 percent to 20 percent.

There were four minority coaches among the 15 teams in 2008 — Denis Hamlett, Cobi Jones, Juan Carlos Osorio and Fernando Clavijo — but only Hamlett and Osorio held onto their jobs for part of 2009. Minority assistant coaches declined from 17 percent to 9.5 percent.

Three teams had minority presidents or chief executives in 2009, the same as the previous year. □

Royal's TD returns spark Broncos to 34-23 win

BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO — Eddie Royal became the first player in Broncos history to return a kickoff and a punt for touchdowns in the same game, leading undefeated Denver to a wild 34-23 win over the San Diego Chargers on Monday night.

The Broncos didn't get an offensive touchdown until Kyle Orton threw a 19-yard pass to tight end Tony Scheffler late in the third quarter for a 24-23 lead. Denver added a field goal by Matt Prater and a late 5-yard touchdown catch by Brandon Stokley that was upheld on review.

This is the fifth time the Broncos have been 6-0, the first since going 13-0 in 1998 en route to winning their second straight Super Bowl behind John Elway. They opened a 3 1/2-game lead in the AFC West over three-time defending division champion San Diego (2-3).

Denver outside linebacker

Elvis Dumervil had two sacks to extend his NFL lead to 10. His second sack caused Philip Rivers to fumble, with Vonnie Holliday recovering to set up Prater's 29-yard field goal. The Broncos sacked Rivers five times, three in the fourth quarter.

Royal is the 11th player in NFL history to return a kickoff and a punt for a touchdown in a game. He had a 93-yard kickoff return and a 71-yard punt return.

"You've got to believe it can happen before you do it," he said. "I've got a lot of faith in the guys in front of me, so I wasn't surprised.

"You want to kind of give a boost to the team on special teams. We were able to do that today."

After the Chargers were forced to settle for a field goal following a sensational drive late in the first quarter, Royal took the kickoff at the 7, found a big hole at about the 35, cut inside of kicker Nate Kaeding at the 50 and raced down the



Denver Broncos kick returner Eddie Royal out runs San Diego Chargers' Kris Wilson while returning a kickoff 93-yards for a touchdown during the first quarter of the NFL football game Monday, Oct. 19, 2009 in San Diego.

Associated Press

left sideline to give the Broncos a 7-3 lead.

In the second quarter, Royal fielded Mike Scifres' punt on the bounce at the 29, worked his way inside, then outraced the coverage to the outside to give Denver a 17-10 lead.

"Man, it was a great feeling. The guys did a great job of blocking," he said of the second return. "I've got to give them a lot of credit. They opened up the seams and it was a home run."

Royal's electrifying returns at first silenced Qualcomm Stadium, then had Chargers fans booing.

Speedy little Darren Sproles of the Chargers got in on the action when he returned a punt 77 yards for a touchdown for a 20-17 lead that held up at halftime. Sproles caught Brett Kern's punt, ran up the left sideline, got a nice block at about the 50, cut inside and was gone.

Just over a minute earlier Kaeding kicked a 44-yard field goal.

On Nov. 11, 2007, Sproles returned a punt and a kickoff for touchdowns in a 23-21 win against Indianapolis.

The Chargers ran 22 plays to only six for the Broncos in the first quarter, in what seemed more like fast-break basketball than football.

Rivers, in fact, was about to be dragged down by Dumervil when he threw a two-handed chest pass to LaDainian Tomlinson for a 21-yard gain on San Diego's second drive.

It was one of four passes by Rivers for at least 13 yards on the drive, which started at the San Diego 6-yard line.

The drive stalled, though, leading to some sideline drama involving Tomlinson.

Tomlinson wasn't on the field on third-and-goal from the 2, when Sproles was stuffed for no gain. Coach Norv Turner had a chagrined look on his face as the Chargers had to settle for Kaeding's 20-yard field goal.

Tomlinson walked down the sideline toward the bench and flipped his helmet. When he and Turner spoke a few minutes later, L.T. didn't appear to be looking at the coach.

Rivers threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to Vincent Jackson with 6 seconds left in the first quarter for a 10-7 lead.

The teams wore throwback uniforms, which meant a return of Denver's striped socks. The road combo of white and brown looked like something out of Monty Python. □

Refs could be back in time for NBA season

BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The NBA's locked-out referees could be back on the floor in time for the season.

The league has made a new proposal, and a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press it will be recommended for approval to the referees on Friday.

The person, who requested anonymity because the negotiations are ongoing, said it's "highly likely" they'll be on the court before next Tuesday's season opener in Cleveland.

The breakthrough in the labor dispute came on Tuesday, after a meeting between league commissioner David Stern and referees union negotiator Lamell McMorris — who had both previously withdrawn from the process.

Neither the NBA nor the National Basketball Referees Association would comment on their progress.

The contract between the league and the union expired on Sept. 1 and the sides have been unable to reach a deal, though they were close a couple of times. The league has been using replacements officials in the preseason, and they have been criticized for the high number of fouls called in the games.

After multiple breakdowns in the talks — one when the referees rejected a deal their negotiators had agreed to in principle days earlier — the NBA seemed set to open a season with replacement officials for the first time since the 1995-96 season.

But progress apparently came with the return of Stern and McMorris, who met on Tuesday in New York.

Stern had removed himself in early September when McMorris criticized his behavior after abruptly ending a meeting the referees' negotiators had traveled to league headquarters for.

McMorris then pulled out late last month, after the union's executive board originally voted to recommend the approval of a proposal from the league, but the full membership rejected it.

The sides agreed long ago on salary issues, in which the referees would get a minor raise in the second of a two-year deal, but remained apart on the league's proposed changes to the referees' pension and severance packages, as well as a plan to develop younger officials.

Charlotte's Larry Brown, Orlando's Stan Van Gundy and Memphis coach Lionel Hollins all have been fined for publicly criticizing the performance of the replacement officials, who were mostly called up from the NBA Development League or WNBA. □

NHL Roundup

Setoguchi and Sharks break Rangers' win streak

NEW YORK (AP) — Devin Setoguchi scored two of San Jose's six consecutive goals as the Sharks downed the Rangers 7-3 to snap New York's seven-game winning streak Monday.

Chris Drury and rookie defenseman Michael Del Zotto staked the Rangers to the early lead against goalie Evgeni Nabokov, who finished with 27 saves.

Brad Staubitz and Dany Heatley got San Jose even before the period was over and the Sharks scored three goals in the second on only 10 shots at backup goalie Steve Valiquette. No. 1 goalie Henrik Lundqvist took over in the third for Valiquette, who allowed five goals on 18 shots, and allowed goals to Ryan Vesce and Patrick Marleau.

New York hadn't lost since a season-opening defeat at Pittsburgh. The Rangers allowed more than three goals in a game for the first time this season.

Kings 4, Stars 1

At Dallas, Ryan Smyth had a power-play goal and two assists, and Justin Williams added a goal and an assist as road-weary Los Angeles beat Dallas to end a three-game losing streak.

Anze Kopitar and Wayne Simmonds scored, and Jonathan Quick made 29 saves as the Kings wrapped up a six-game trip.

The Kings scored three straight goals in the second period while outshooting the Stars 18-4.

Rookie Jamie Benn scored for Dallas and Marty Turco had 28 saves.

Oilers 2, Canucks 1

At Edmonton, Alberta, Nikolai Khabibulin made 39 saves to lead Edmonton over Vancouver to keep the Canucks winless on the road this season.

Sam Gagner's third-period goal was the game-winner for the Oilers (5-2-1), who have won four of five. Patrick O'Sullivan scored Edmonton's other goal and assisted on Gagner's midway through the period.

Kyle Wellwood looked to have scored with the extra attacker in the final second to tie the game, but a video review determined time had expired before the puck crossed the goal line.

Steve Bernier scored for the Canucks.

In other NHL games it was, San Jose 7, N.Y. Rangers 3; Los Angeles 4, Dallas 1; and Edmonton 2, Vancouver 1. □



Los Angeles Kings' Anze Kopitar of Slovenia, from left, Justin Williams and Ryan Smyth (94) celebrate following a goal by Williams in the second period of an NHL hockey game against the Dallas Stars, Monday, Oct. 19, 2009, in Dallas. Each of the players had a goal in the second period that helped them to their 4-1 win over the Stars.

Associated Press

MLB PLAYOFFS*Continued from Page B10*

The defending champions can earn their second straight trip to the World Series with a victory at home in Game 5 on Wednesday night. Cole Hamels, last year's NLCS and World Series MVP, will take the mound for the Phillies. Clayton Kershaw or Vicente Padilla will start for Los Angeles.

Trailing 4-3, the Phillies started their rally with one out in the ninth when pinch-hitter Matt Stairs walked on four pitches against Broxton. Stairs hit a two-run homer off Broxton in Game 4 of the NLCS last year at Dodger Stadium.

Broxton then hit Carlos Ruiz with a pitch, but pinch-hitter Greg Dobbs hit a soft liner to third for the second out.

Rollins, just 3 for 18 in the series to that point, then ripped a 99 mph fastball to right-center and the ball rolled all the way to the wall. Ruiz slid home without a throw.

Brad Lidge got two outs in the ninth to earn the win. Ryan Howard hit a two-run homer that gave him eight straight postseason games with at least one RBI, tying Lou Gehrig's major league record set more than seven decades ago. □

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1BR	WK 42	ROOM 2308	G.V.	\$ 6.000

RIU PALACE

1BR	WK 42	ROOM 556	O.F.	\$ 8.000
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DIVI VILLAGE

STU	WK 42	ROOM 6107	G.V.	\$ 5.000
1BR	WK 43	ROOM 4102	G.V.	\$ 9.000

MARRIOTT SURF CLUB

2BR		GOLD	G.V.	\$ 17.000
2BR		GOLD	O.V.	\$ 18.000
2BR		GOLD	O.S.	\$ 22.000

MARRIOTT OCEAN CLUB

2BR	WK 40	ROOM 5014	O.V.	\$ 13.000
2BR	WK 41	ROOM 4019	P.O.	\$ 15.000
2BR	WK 43	ROOM 3019	P.O.	\$ 10.000

DIVI PHOENIX

1BR	WK 40	ROOM 109	P.O.	\$ 7.000
1BR	WK 40	ROOM 303	P.O.	\$ 7.000
1BR	WK 40	ROOM 702	O.V.	\$ 7.000
1BR	WK 42	ROOM 402	P.O.	\$ 7.000
1BR	WK 40	ROOM 1105	O.V.	\$ 7.000

LA CABANA BEACH & RAQUET CLUB

1BR	WK 41+42	ROOM 424A	P.O.	PW\$ 6.500
1BR	WK 40	ROOM 116 A	P.O.	\$ 6.000
STU	WK 41+42	ROOM 220 B	P.O.	PW\$ 4.500
1BR	WK 42	ROOM 333 A	O.V.	\$ 4.500
1BR	WK 42	ROOM 216 A	P.O.	\$ 6.000

2BR	WK 43	ROOM 413 B/C	O.V.	\$ 8.000
3BR	WK 43	ROOM 235 A/B/C	O.V.	\$ 13.000

OCCIDENTAL RESORT

1BR DLX	WK 18-50		O.V.	\$ 10.000
3BR	WK 18-50		O.F.	\$ 30.000
2BR	WK 18-26/36-50		O.V.	\$ 22.000

PARADISE BEACH VILLAS

1BR	WK 40	ROOM 320	P.O.

Perú: Manifestantes se enfrentan por despenalización del aborto

LIMA (AP) - Movimientos feministas y grupos de católicos se enfrentaron el martes bulliciosamente en sendas manifestaciones a favor y en contra del aborto, tema que ha generado una fuerte polémica en Perú a raíz de que una comisión legislativa recomendara su despenalización.

Los grupos antagonistas se reunieron enfrente de la sede del legislativo en momentos en que la Comisión Revisora del Código Penal discutía un pedido de reconsideración a su propuesta para despenalizar el aborto en casos de violación sexual y cuando el feto presenta graves malformaciones.

El aborto es ilegal en Perú, excepto en los casos en que sea necesario salvar la vida de la madre. Tras un breve debate, la Comisión Revisora desestimó reconsiderar la despenalización del aborto, lo que había pedido el ministerio de Justicia, según dijo Carlos Torres, presidente de ese grupo de trabajo. Explicó que con esta decisión se

ratificó la legalidad del llamado aborto terapéutico (cuando peligra la vida de la madre), así como se despenaliza el aborto eugenésico (cuando el feto presenta malformaciones congénitas) y el aborto practicado en casos de violación sexual.

Las activistas feministas coreaban "Sí a la vida de las mujeres", mientras portaban carteles con la frase: "Voto a favor. Aborto legal para no morir".

Los grupos en contra del aborto, entre quienes se encontraban algunas monjas católicas, mostraban carteles con crudas fotografías de fetos abortados y frases como "El no tuvo derechos humanos", y "No existe el derecho de matar".

La polémica desatada por la propuesta de la Comisión Revisora del Código Penal de despenalizar el aborto, enfrentó incluso a ministros de estado. El ministro de Salud, Oscar Ugarte, manifestó su respaldo a la despenalización del aborto, mientras



Manifestantes en contra del aborto gritan consignas en Lima el martes 20 de octubre de 2009. Movimientos feministas y grupos católicos se enfrentaron bulliciosamente en sendas manifestaciones a favor y en contra del aborto. (AP Foto/ Karel Navarro)

el ministro de Defensa, Rafael Rey, evaluaría su permanencia en el advirtió que de ser aprobado ello, gobierno. □

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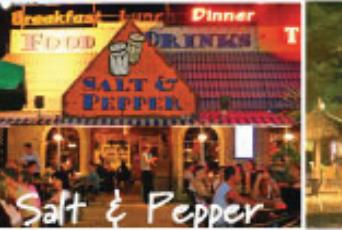
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